

STORIES from the BIG CITIES



Fantastic Initiation of New York College Boy

NEW YORK.—There is an elm tree on Seventh avenue near the corner of One Hundred and Twenty-eighth street. Around the elm tree is a puddle. In some places the puddle may be six inches deep. Obnoxious of snow, sleet and rain, a chubby youth sat by that puddle on a recent morning fishing. His feet were clad in large shoes in a state of partial decay. His eyes were obscured by a tattered brown hat and his shirt was red. He had no collar, but eleven yards of bright red ribbon were wound about his neck.

At his right was an alarm clock; at his left one of those unhygienic vessels which adorn the lobbies of cheap hotels. Ever and anon he gazed anxiously at the alarm clock, and every five minutes he spat into the cuspidor. It was the hour for early churchgoers. So many of them stopped to see what kind of fish he was catching that Patrolman Hartwig strolled up to see what the crowd was doing. Patrolman Gabel joined him.

"What're you doing?" said Hartwig.

The chubby youth was silent.

"What's yer name?"

Still the sphinxlike silence.

"Come along with us then, and we'll soon show you what you're doing." He was George Edward Poppis, eighteen, a sophomore in the College of the City of New York. At eight o'clock in the morning he had reported, as per instructions, at the chapter house of the Tau Delta Phi fraternity. There he had been dressed up, bundled into an automobile and taken to Seventh avenue, where he had been left with instructions not to stir or speak until the boys came back for him. He was also instructed to violate the municipal health ordinance every five minutes.

"What kind of a stunt do you call that?" asked the lieutenant.

"Getting initiated," replied.

"Sure, I call it disorderly conduct," said the lieutenant.

Minneapolis Chinaman Makes Midnight Music

MINNEAPOLIS.—Charley Wing is a Chinese who loves music. He loves it so much he stays up nights to play his two-string fiddle. He also owns a laundry. Like a thrifty Chinese, he does not allow his music to interfere with his business, but the neighborhood knows. And every frequenter of Franklin avenue and Fifteenth street at midnight and the wee hours of the morning also knows.

When the wash is on the line Charley plays.

To save light he usually sits in front of the laundry's big plate-glass window, which faces the strong light on the Bloomington transfer point. So the late travelers also know. From midnight to 2 a. m. are his favorite practicing hours. Ordinarily it is the violin, but on special occasions Charley has a weird oriental makeshift made of bamboo and bits of snakekin, and called in Chinese parlance the "seeyin," which he plays.

Charley's music is of the low, haunting kind and little disturbs the night, but close neighbors who enjoy the full force of the serenade have come to recognize the shrieking sounds wherein the Chinese finds his music, and are said to have remonstrated loudly at the new school of music.

Philadelphia Church Is Built of Grindstones

PHILADELPHIA.—The dedication of Tacony Baptist church, Disston and Hagerman streets, marked the completion of the only church edifice in the world built of worn-out grindstones and finished a chapter of self-sacrifice on the part of the pastor in securing enough stones to finish the building.

The pastor is Rev. George W. Tryon. It was through his own personal sacrifice that the church was made possible and a building erected large enough to accommodate the greatly increasing number of members. With his boots and pick and shovel the hustling pastor, in water to his knees, helped dig the old grindstones which had been buried for several years under great piles of dirt.

The stones, which were used for the grinding of saws, were thrown to one side after they no longer were of use in the business to lie in a waste pile until Mr. Tryon, seeing that the available stones would not complete the structure, proceeded to locate the buried stones and thereby finish his church.

It required approximately 2,500 grindstones to complete the edifice, and all the hauling and the setting of the stones was done under the direct supervision of the pastor, who attended to the operation every day in order that the best materials would be placed in the structure.

Arguedo's Big Bale of Money (Mex.) Is Found

NEW YORK.—When Deputy Sheriff Sinnott opened the safety deposit compartment in the Woolworth building leased by former Gov. Abel O. Arguedo of Yucatan, a bale of Mexican paper money fell out. It was so large Sinnott was unable to lift it. The deputy sheriff was armed with an order to search the compartment for enough cash to satisfy a judgment for \$472,000, American money, obtained against Arguedo by the Yucatan government, it being alleged that when Arguedo fled from the country several months ago he took the war chest with him.

Sinnott expected to find much gold, as it had been said the former governor had changed much paper into metal when he reached Havana, but the deputy found only bills, tied in small packages, which were roped together in a big bale.

The bills had been issued by various banks and by the government. Some were good, others nearly worthless. When the bundle had been hoisted to a table, an expert on Mexican money was called in and three hours were devoted to counting the bills and establishing their worth. The expert placed the total value at \$80,000 to \$90,000. In Mexican it would figure up to about \$600,000, he said.

A steamship which recently made the port of San Francisco reports having sailed in a sea of pumice, near Sydney, New South Wales, about January 6. Apparently the material had been cast up by a submarine volcanic outbreak, and chunks ranging in size from that of a marble to a plug hat were thrown on deck by the waves. The vessel was several hours in passing through the affected region.

In Japan devilfish weighing up to 200 pounds are sometimes caught. These fish are amphibious; they are often seen wabbling on their tentacles like spiders, in search of patches of sweet potatoes. The natives kill them with clubs. In the water they are caught in jars lowered to the bottom, which the octopus enters, thinking them a good retreat from which to catch his food.

In recent years valuable coal deposits have been discovered in Spitzbergen. The extent of the deposits appears to be enormous. It is estimated after careful examination that two strata in the neighborhood of the fjords between Advent bay and Green harbor contain more than a million tons of coal. There appears to be also a third stratum in the same neighborhood.

The most beautiful women in the world are said to be the Indian women of the isthmus of Tehuantepec, which lies just north of Yucatan in Mexico. They add to their picturesque attractiveness by wearing whatever fortune they may possess in the form of gold coins strung about the arms and neck.

Arizona's national forest reserve is now traversed by an excellent auto mobile road, the route following a famous Apache trail and passing the huge Roosevelt dam, the home of ancient cliff dwellers and others of the state's most interesting scenic and historic spots.

GERMAN MACHINE GUNS MOW DOWN RUSSIAN MASSES

Terrific Assaults of the Czar's Soldiers in Ten Days Bloody Battle.

DEAD PILED HIGH ON FIELD

"Magnificent, but Criminal," Says Tenth Officer, in Describing Advance Made by Slavs in Face of Certain Death.

By OSWALD F. SCHUETTE. (Special Correspondent of Chicago Daily News.)

With Field Marshal von Hindenburg's Armies, Near Postaw, Russia. —I have come to these blood-drenched battlefields too late to see the terrific assaults of the great Russian offensive, so I can only tell the story of this battle that raged day after day by picturing the scenes as I find them and piecing together into one ghastly mosaic the fragments of what I am told. I have talked with officers and men of the German regiments that held back the Russian deluge and have carefully gone over the statements of the Russian prisoners.

This battlefield consists of an open glade cut through the Russian primeval forest. It runs almost due north and south and varies in width from 400 to 1,500 yards. The Russians were entrenched along the eastern edge of this opening, while the forest behind offered splendid opportunities for concealing movements of troops and emplacements of artillery. The German lines skirt the western edge of the glade.

Battle Lasts Ten Days.

The Russian fighting at this point lasted ten days before the czar's troops finally gave up their attempt to break through the German lines. On the first day the Russian fire was sporadic, apparently to make certain the range of the guns. Then for two days more the Russian bombardment continued, but now it was a real "drum fire." This means that the cannonading is so heavy that it sounds like the rattle of a drum.

On the afternoon of the third day the Russian drum fire was suddenly lifted from the German trenches and converted into a "sperrfeuer" (curtain fire) back of the German lines to prevent the bringing up of reserves. It was the signal for a Russian attack. Out of the forest came the storming Russians straight for the German lines, straight into the curtain of German artillery fire that tore great gaps in the attacking columns, though these quickly closed up.

In the meantime the German troops rushed out of their dugouts into the water-filled and shell-torn trenches. Almost in a moment the machine guns were jerked out of the bombproof protection, and after being hastily mounted on the wreckage of the breastworks, began to sputter their fearful greeting to the Russians.

Between the machine guns rattled the infantry fire. There was no time for giving commands and there was no need of any. There were no volleys. Each German soldier fired as fast as he could. The gaps in the Russian line widened, and then the Russians would halt and fire toward the German trenches, but it was hard to aim, and the bullets scarcely checked the withering crash of machine gun and rifle fire.

Stopped at Barbed Wire.

The Russian wave reached the barbed wire entanglements before the German breastworks, but came no farther. Torn, beaten and shattered into a thousand fragments, the remnants of the Russian host beat a retreat. How many reached the protection of their trenches under the unceasing German fire no one can tell, but the ground between the German and Russian lines was covered with dead and dying. There was no further attack that night.

Toward morning the thunder of the cannon quieted and the cries of the wounded were almost stifled by daybreak.

The great battlefield was asleep only for an hour when the action of the fourth day began with another terrific drum fire, which lasted until long past noon.

Again the Russian wave broke from the forests, but it had hardly got out of the woods before the German artillery opened fire. Again shells tore open the ranks; again the machine guns piled up the dead. The task was more terrible than on the day before, as the Russians had to storm over the bodies of their dead comrades.

Again the night was freezing cold, again the hours were hideous with the cries of the dying men out there on the battlefield and again the darkness was filled with the thunder of cannon. To prevent a night attack, the Germans kept up a discharge of illuminating rockets and a blue-greenish glare added to the ghastliness of the field of death. But no Russians dared to advance.

At daybreak the Russians opened with a third drum fire. This time it was more terrible than on the previous occasions, for it was directed not only on the German trenches, but deep into the lines behind them, to hold

WANT HUSBANDS WHO DANCE

Woman Students Say Men May Smoke and Play Bridge, but Must Not Drink.

Minneapolis.—The student newspaper of the University of Minneapolis, which had asked the woman students of the institution the question: "How much salary must a man receive before you would consent to marry?" has received replies ranging from \$800 to \$10,000 a year. Most of the girls

were conservative in their demands, however, and the general average, based on early replies, is about \$1,600.

One girl wrote: "What is money to me? Give me a true, loving husband and a cottage."

A large majority of the girls demanded that their future husbands be good dancers, some said they must know the "latest steps" and one went so far as to say she would marry only a man who was a "dreamy dancer."

Smoking would be permitted, even demanded, by a large number of the

CAN'T FREEZE IN THIS



A life-saving suit which keeps the wearer's head above water and his body warm even in zero weather has been perfected by T. E. Aud, of Herndon, Va. The suit was tested in the Potomac river in the presence of Gen. George Uhler and other officers of the United States steamboat inspection service, the test resulting in a favorable, though unofficial, report by General Uhler. The lower part of the suit contains four pounds of lead to the foot, and the upper part is filled with cork to float the body in an upright position. The material is non-conducting so that the heat of the body will keep the wearer alive for four days in icy water, the inventor claims. In the picture Mr. Aud is shown wearing the suit.

back the reserves and prevent the bringing up of relief to the half-frozen German soldiers, who, bundled up, were standing in the water-filled dugouts waiting for the attack which they knew was inevitable. At eight o'clock the attack came and this time it was more successful.

Despite the artillery, despite the machine guns and despite the infantry fire, the apparently inexhaustible remnants of Russians swept on over the dead, over the barbed-wire barriers before the German line, over the first trenches and routed the German soldiers, who were half frozen in the mud of their shattered shelters. A terrific hand-to-hand conflict followed. Hand grenades tore down scores of defenders and assaulters alike. The men fought like maniacs with spades, bayonets, knives and clubbed guns.

Within 100 Feet of Victory.

But the Russians won at a fearful price for so slight a gain. It might have been won more had the Russian deluge swept farther, but it did not. The Russians stopped within a hundred feet of victory. It may have been lack of discipline, lack of officers or lack of reserves; no one knows.

The Russians seemed helpless in the German trench; instead of sweeping on into the second lines they tried to trench themselves in the wrecked German first line. Immediately German artillery hurled shells of the heaviest caliber into these lines, and tore them into fragments.

Then came the German reserves, and by nightfall the Russians had again been driven out, 800 of them being taken prisoners.

Four days of almost absolute quiet followed, with only occasional artillery fire and now and then a sputtering infantry volley across the glade with its burden of death when the scout posts on either side thought they saw the enemy. The weather turned warm

again and the field of battle was an almost impassable swamp.

Attack Without Drum Fire.

On the eighth day reports reached the German lines that the Russians intended to make a surprise attack that night without any drum fire. The German artillery therefore shelled the Russian woods at a terrific rate at hourly intervals through the night. All the troops remained on duty without a minute of sleep, but no Russians came. The next day was quiet.

That night again it was feared there might be a surprise attack and so again the German artillery shelled the Russian lines until morning. But there was no attack until the following noon, when, without any artillery preparation, the Russian onslaught was repeated. A German officer told me the story of that attack. He said that if he had not seen it himself he would never have believed it possible that an attack would come out of the Russian woods, where the lines were almost 1,500 yards apart.

Suddenly, without any warning, a mud-colored wave began to pour forth from the forest. It was a line of Russians three ranks deep, containing more than 1,000 men. They marched step by step, and did not run. Behind this was a second wave like the first, and then a third, the intervals between them being about 150 yards.

The German artillery tore holes in the ranks, which merely closed up again, marched on and made an attempt to fire. They marched, as though on parade. "It was magnificent, but criminal," said the German officer.

Then came a fourth line like the other three. The first line was less than 1,000 yards from the German trenches. It came so slowly that it was possible for the Germans to make plans with cruel precision to meet it.

Caught Between Walls of Fire.

When the fourth line emerged from the Russian wood the German artillery dropped a curtain of fire behind it and then a similar wall of shells ahead of those in front. They then moved these two walls closer together with a hail of shrapnel between them, while at the same time they cut loose with the machine guns.

The splendid formation of Russians, trapped between the walls of fire, scattered heedlessly in every direction but in vain. Shells gouged deep holes in the dissolving ranks. The air was filled with clamor and frantic shrieks were sometimes heard above the incessant roar and cracking or exploding projectiles.

Deafened men sought to dig themselves into the ground in the foolish belief that they could find safety there from this deluge of shells. Others raced madly for the rear and some escaped in this way as if by a miracle. Still others ran toward the German lines, only to be cut down by the German machine-gun fire.

In less than twenty minutes the terrible drama was over. The attack had cost the Russians 4,000 lives, and yet not a Russian soldier had come within 500 yards of the German lines. "It was a terrible harvest of death," said the officer who described the battle. It was the last gasp of the Russian offensive at this point.

TEACH BOYS HOW TO COOK

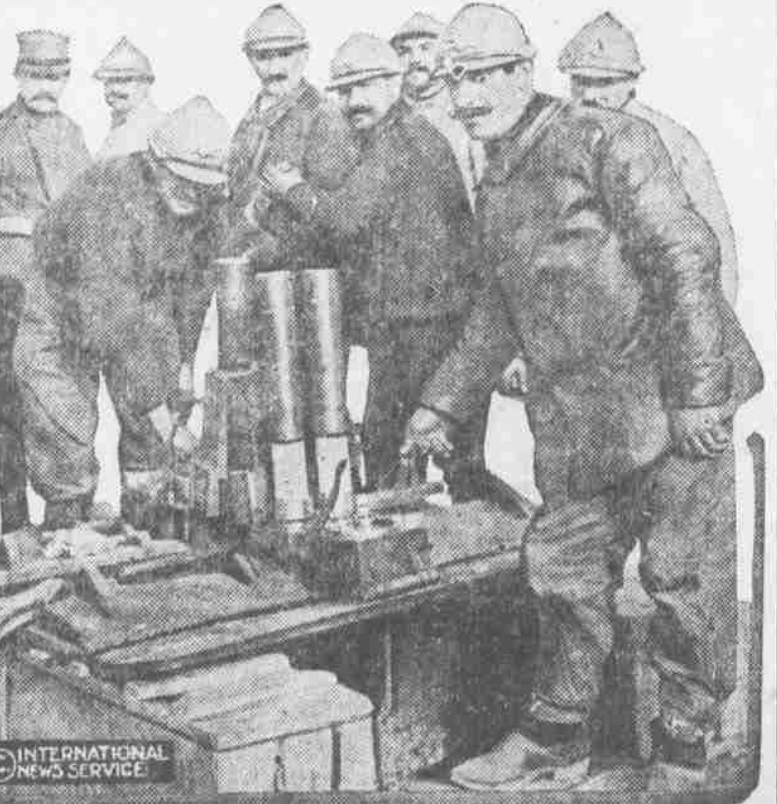
Domestic Science Applied by Lads in Kansas Opposed by the Girl Students.

McPherson, Kan.—Leap year is producing adverse results in Central academy and college here.

A dozen boys have applied for a domestic science course and others will join. The instructor is Miss Viola Graham, and she has received a number of additional applications. The course will include cooking and sewing and will continue the remainder of the school year.

The girls are doing their best to prevent the movement of bachelorhood by inviting the boys to attend skating parties, but the domestic science boys are busy practicing the culinary art, and they assert that if the women intend to live independent lives they also can.

READY FOR THE RAIDERS OF THE AIR



French soldiers at Saloniki setting the fuses of anti-aircraft guns on the approach of German aviators.

were conservative in their demands, however, and the general average, based on early replies, is about \$1,600. One girl wrote: "What is money to me? Give me a true, loving husband and a cottage."

A large majority of the girls demanded that their future husbands be good dancers, some said they must know the "latest steps" and one went so far as to say she would marry only a man who was a "dreamy dancer." Smoking would be permitted, even demanded, by a large number of the

NEWS and GOSSIP of WASHINGTON



American Flag Under Lions That Look British

WASHINGTON.—Four bronze lions, said to be exact copies of those on the Trafalgar square Lord Nelson monument in London, couchant on flags presumed to be the American colors, form a group on the Grant monument in the Botanic garden, which is attracting much comment at present because of the un-American idea the lions convey by reason of their position over the flags. Although the group has been in position for some time, this peculiar feature has apparently escaped notice until recently. The additions just being made attracted closer attention, however, from the casual observer.



The figures of the lions which have given rise to comment form the centerpiece of the monument. This section, therefore, is the most conspicuous. The center is raised, and on this elevated base is the large tablet on which the inscription is to be placed. Around this base, at each of the four corners, is a crouching lion, under whose body is stretched a flag, which, by the American eagle forming the head and by the fact that it is a monument to an American hero, might be taken to be the American standard.

The fact that the lions are copies of the British lions on the Trafalgar square monument in England and the sight of the flag stretched under their bodies has caused many tourists and other observers to wonder just what the motif of the group is intended to express.

To an artist perhaps the proud attitude of the crouching figures might convey an air of heroic protection, but to the ordinary mind this same proud appearance might mean haughty possession, and it is this latter impression, probably, which has caused the inquiries to be raised.

Commerce Department Talks of Volcano Foundry

A PROPOSED novel co-operation with nature in a manufacturing enterprise, whereby the great volcano of Kilauea of the island of Hawaii would be made to serve as a gigantic foundry for casting sewer pipe and bricks, is arousing interest among officials of the United States department of commerce.

This interest is not only in the scheme as a general commercial feature affecting production and freight movements in territory comprising the United States. Every effort is being made by the territorial government to foster other industries than the dominant ones of sugar production and pineapple canning in order to solve pressing economic problems, and a suggestion has been made by the governor of the islands that congress authorize the federal department of commerce to co-operate in the work.

The possibilities of casting sewer pipe from the molten lava of the volcano have been studied by a retired pipe manufacturer from the United States who recently visited the islands, and he has even suggested details of the procedure by which buckets of exceedingly refractory material on an endless chain would bring the molten lava from the bed of the crater to its rim, where the pipes would be cast. Buckets capable of resisting 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit easily can be provided, it is declared, while the temperature of the lava has been found from scientific observations to be about 1,800 degrees. At such a high degree of heat the lava, it is believed, would remain liquid during the short time necessary to transport it to the molds.

Though the plan is so out of the ordinary that it sounds almost visionary to the layman, it is explained to the commerce department by its agents in Hawaii that Kilauea presents one of the best opportunities known anywhere in the world for industrial utilization of the earth's natural heat, since the lake of molten material is accessible and relatively quiescent, and workshops may therefore be erected and manufacturing operations carried on close to the rim of the crater.

Senator Reed's Secretary Bests the Constable

DON HUNT of Kansas City, secretary to Senator Reed, is the hero of District of Columbia motorists by reason of his victory over Maryland constables who arrested him Sunday for driving his "fiver" into the state without a Maryland license. Hunt's machine was adorned with Washington and Missouri tags, but the Maryland officials held that this was not sufficient. They escorted Hunt to a justice of the peace, who promptly assessed a fine of \$5. Hunt demanded to be shown the section under which he had been penalized. It was produced with the result that Hunt pointed out to the J. P. that as a nonresident he was entitled to drive through Maryland seven times without a license.



"I am willing to take oath that this is my second invasion of Maryland," said Hunt. The J. P. perused the law and reluctantly handed back the fine. Under a recent decision of the Supreme court of the United States residents of Washington are required to have both Virginia and Maryland licenses in addition to the District tax if they desire to tour the neighboring commonwealths. Hunt, however, has convinced the Marylanders that this ruling does not apply to Missourians unless they exceed the tourist limitations.

Col. Karts Training His Watchmen to Be Camels

COL. W. W. HARTS, superintendent of public buildings and grounds, who is an advocate of preparedness, is putting his "watchman's brigade" at the state, war and navy building through a course of training for service in northern Mexico or any other old waterless waste where they may be needed.

As one of the features of the course, the colonel has removed all the watercoolers from the corridors.

And as the watchmen must now walk through miles of corridors and up and down long flights of stairs to get water, the result is twofold: Most of the men are developing a remarkable endurance against thirst, while others—those who must have water—are developing the muscles they would have to use on long marches and mountain climbing. In a sense, also, the "brigade" is getting practice in the use of firearms. Ever so often in the week usually after the departments are closed for the day, the colonel gets his assistant to turn in a fire alarm in some remote corner of the building.

Thereupon thirty-odd watchmen in brass buttons and blue coats go tearing through corridors and bounding up stairways carrying fire extinguishers. These hand grenades are aimed at the imaginary fire by that section of the "brigade" which, for purposes of military training, may be regarded as the machine-gun platoon, while those assigned to the heavier artillery handle the heavy hose lines.

Monday afternoon, however, is the time when the colonel takes greatest pride in his brigade. Promptly at 3:30 o'clock, the members of the "brigade" line up on the lot back of the state, war, and navy building, and are inspected. The colonel, with his assistant acting as adjutant, walks slowly along the line in front of the men, and then along the line in back of the men, inspecting the hang of their clothes and the erectness of their carriage.

Germany, where iron money of small denomination has for some time been in circulation, is not alone in suffering such a stringency. Russia is having printed duplicates of the Romanoff jubilee postage stamps on heavy cardboard, the pieces to have the value as money of the stamp denomination, while in England also a new treasury note has been put in circulation, value, £1 10s.

Except perhaps for the old slave market at Milledgeville, the city of Savannah has, in the foundation of the Pulaski hotel, one of Georgia's most notable mementoes of the day when men were sold. The basement of this ancient hostelry is honeycombed with brickwork cells used before the war by slave owners for the safekeeping of their slaves.

The failure of the mortality rates of measles and whooping cough to show a reduction during the last 15 years is due to the fact that they are highly communicable in the early stage, when diagnosis is most difficult.